To Elizabeth Pease

c/2.
143

Rochester 8th mo. 4th 1849

GARRISON MSS.

My Dear friend:

I take up my pen to thank you for the generous donation which you have kindly sent me by the the hand of our mutual friend Eliza Nicholson of Carlisle. I am the more grateful because you had already contributed the amount which you had decided to give for this year. I take it as marked kindness that you have thus thought me worthy of your encouragement and support.

the North Star has had a multitude of difficulties to struggle with - perhaps greater than any of my English friends can well understand. I commenced the paper against the advice of many of my best friends - and, in this I may have acted unwisely. Since they, of course do not feel ~~do not feel~~ that interest in its success that my former and present relations to them led me to expect - Of the motive which led me to commence the Paper - I need say but

with. The general contempt
with which my people are
regarded - the low estimate
entertained of the negro's mental
and moral qualities among
the white people of this land -
and the absence of any very
striking refutation of the
debasing and depreciating
theories universally prevailing
against us - and the knowledge
that the colored people - for
a season - at least - speaking
through the columns of papers
of Conducted by white persons
led me to establish this paper
as a means of bringing out their
powers - in such a manner

as to silence hurtful misrepresentations - and to remove the cruel and unnatural prejudices which may be supposed to operate as the most powerful agents in upholding slavery in this country - How far the motive has been justified by the result, I may leave others to decide. I am however convinced that the effort has not wholly failed. Good lasting good has been done by the paper - and I am resolved that it shall continue while I have anything like the necessary means for continuing it.

3d Sheet

My own poor abilities as a writer have been severely taxed and I have performed my part with very little credit but when I have done the best I could and reason can ask no more. Without ever having had a days schooling and with no regular or sound knowledge of the rules of grammer - and very little reading I have managed to keep my paper up nearly two years with very little complaints against me either from its readers or the

or a preceding Contemporaneous
press - although the latter
has uniformly treated
others kindly on this score.
Upon the whole I feel a
degree of complacency on
account of the respect
and consideration thus
far extended to me by
the press and public
generally. Especially do I
feel gratified for the spirit
with which the enterprize
is regarded by the people
for whose benefit the
paper was established.
Most of the papers started
by Colored persons had
failed its establishment, and

as a consequence our people were generally disheartened and hopeless - and of course feared that the fate which had consigned all others to defeat would also make mine a failure. It is therefore a matter of surprise and gratification that the paper continues - and the more intelligent and respectable among us are exerting themselves hopefully to keep the paper in existence. This is particularly the case with the Colored people in Philadelphia who are industriously exerting to put

paper on a permanent footing.

Believe me Dear Friend - I shall do my utmost ~~to~~ honorably to serve the Cause of my race - and thereby merit your esteem and approbation.

My family - wife and five children are all well. I have three boys and two girls - Two Boy Lewis and Fredk go to school - and my Daughter of whom you have heard - is also regularly going to school. I am Most sincerely Yours

Frederick Douglass